

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 PC-01 HA-05 ACDA-12 MCT-02

EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7310

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3513

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, CASC, SHUM, NU, CS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SOMOZA- AUGUST 1: FSLN TRANS-BORDER RAIDS

REF: STATE 191289

1. CHARGE MET WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA AUGUST 1 AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. PRESIDENT SOMOZA EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO AMBASSADOR WEISMANN, ABOUT WHOM HE COMMENTED MOST FAVORABLY AND SAID HE HAD MET SOME TIME IN THE PAST. THE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THAT GON HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THE ISSUE WITH THE GOCR. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT COOPERATION AMONG GON AND GOCR WAS QUITE GOOD, BUT THE PROBLEM OF FSLN RAIDS ACROSS THE BORDER REMAINED OF CONCERN TO HIM. HE STRESSED THAT WHILE HE HAD NO PRESENT INTENTION TO HAVE GN TROOPS CROSS THE COSTA RICAN BORDER IN HOT PURSUIT, IT COULD NOT BE RULED OUT IN THE HEAT OF COMBAT. SO LONG AS GOCR CONTINUED ITS PRESENT COOPERATION, HOWEVER, THIS WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM.

2. TURNING TO THE GOSHKO ARTICLE ON NICARAGUA IN AUGUST 1 WASHINGTON POST, THE PRESIDENT VOLUNTEERED THAT "NO ONE HAS SEEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER" AND ASSURED CHARGE THAT HE WOULD NOT RELEASE IT. IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S QUESTION, CONFIDENTIAL

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CHARGE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WAS WASHINGTON'S INTENTION ALSO, AND PROVIDED HIM WITH THE GIST OF DEPT'S NOON BRIEFING PRESS GUIDANCE, TO WHICH PRESIDENT NODDED HIS HEAD IN A SEEMINGLY SATISFIED MANNER.

3. THEN, SEIZING ON POINT THAT DIFFERENCES IN INTERNAL DEBATE SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS INDICATION OF MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN

HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, PRESIDENT SOMOZA SAID THAT HE KNEW THERE WERE CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT SAW THE ONLY SOLUTION TO NICARAGUA'S PROBLEMS AS HIS IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHY NICARAGUA HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT, AND SAID THAT "IT IS NATURAL FOR THEM TO VIEW MY COUNTRY AS AN EXAMPLE OF A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR BECAUSE OF OUR UNFORTUNATE IMAGE, YET I KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES WHICH CANNOT EVEN APPROACH THE POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN NICARAGUA, NOT TO MENTION FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THOSE WHO DEMAND MY IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FROM THE SCENE ARE NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THERE IS AT PRESENT NO ALTERNATIVE, AND THERE WON'T BE UNTIL THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME ARE ABLE TO GET TOGETHER TO WORK FOR A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION."

4. SOMOZA SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS ALONG THOSE LINES HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE WITH THE CONSERVATIVES. FURTHER, HE HAD BEEN "DOING SOME POLITICKING IN VENEZUELA" TO TRY TO HAVE THE VENEZUELAN INDUCE UDEL, "WHICH VENEZUELA HAS BEEN SUPPORTING," TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH HIM. HE THOUGHT THAT THIS EFFORT WOULD HAVE SOME SUCCESS.

5. PRESIDENT SOMOZA ASKED IF WE HAD SEEN THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY KAREN DEYOUNG AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE POINT SHE HAD MADE THAT USG SOURCE HAD SAID THAT USG WOULD BREAK RELATIONS IF HE DECLARED A STATE OF SIEGE. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD NOT HEARD ANYONE MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF OUR REACTION TO SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE VERY NEGATIVE INDEED. HIS EARLIER COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT TO AMB. SOLAUN HAD, OF COURSE, BEEN REPORTED TO WASHINGTON (MANAGUA 3229).

6. CHARGE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING NICARAGUAN EMPLOYEES OF THE EMBASSY THAT DID NOT ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF EITHER THE GON OR THE GUARDIA. PRESIDENT SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS EAGER TO HEAR OF ANY SUCH INCIDENTS BECAUSE HE DID NOT CONDONE THEM AND ASKED IF HE COULD HAVE DETAILS, WHICH CHARGE PROVIDED. (SEE SEPTEL. THE PRESIDENT PROMISED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THESE PROBLEMS, AND ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY KEEP GON INFORMED OF ANY FUTURE INCIDENTS.

7. CHARGE REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN THE BONN SUMMIT DECLARATION ON ANTI-HIJACKING AND GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S JULY 28 PRESS RELEASE ON THE SUBJECT. HE ADDED THAT EXPERTS WERE MEETING IN BONN AUGUST 1-2 TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE DECLARATION. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT "THIS IS A VERY GOOD THING AND I SUPPORT IT VERY MUCH." CHARGE PROMISED TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE SUBJECT THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY.

8. CHARGE THEN RAISED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF US CITIZEN JOSEPH HOWARD CAMP. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT HE WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF CAMP'S EXISTENCE MUCH LESS HIS DISAPPEARANCE. I INFORMED THE PRESIDENT THAT MAJOR SOMOZA WAS AWARE OF THE DETAILS AND WE HAD, IN FACT, LEARNED OF THE DISAPPEARANCE FROM HIM. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATION GIVEN US BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ASKED THAT IF ANY FURTHER DETAILS WERE AVAILABLE, SUCH AS EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION CARDS FILLED OUT BY CAMP AFTER MAY 25, WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM. CHARGE SAID THAT WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR INABILITY TO DETERMINE CAMP'S WHEREABOUTS.

9. COMMENTS: AS REPORTED MANAGUA 3450 (NOTAL), PRESIDENT
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SOMOZA HAS INDEED SHOWN PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON BUT WE BELIEVE THAT HE WILL KEEP IT CLOSELY HELD AMONG HIS CONFIDANTES. HE APPEARED HEALTHY AND RELAXED BUT SOMEWHAT BURDENED BY THE PRESS OF BUSINESS AND INDEED THERE WERE A NUMBER OF VISITORS DEPARTING AS WELL AS WAITING IN THE OUTER LOBBY BEFORE AND AFTER THE MEETING. NONE OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED SEEMED DISTURBING TO THE PRESIDENT AND RATHER HE APPEARED TO WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THEM.
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